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BATTLEFIELD ACTION

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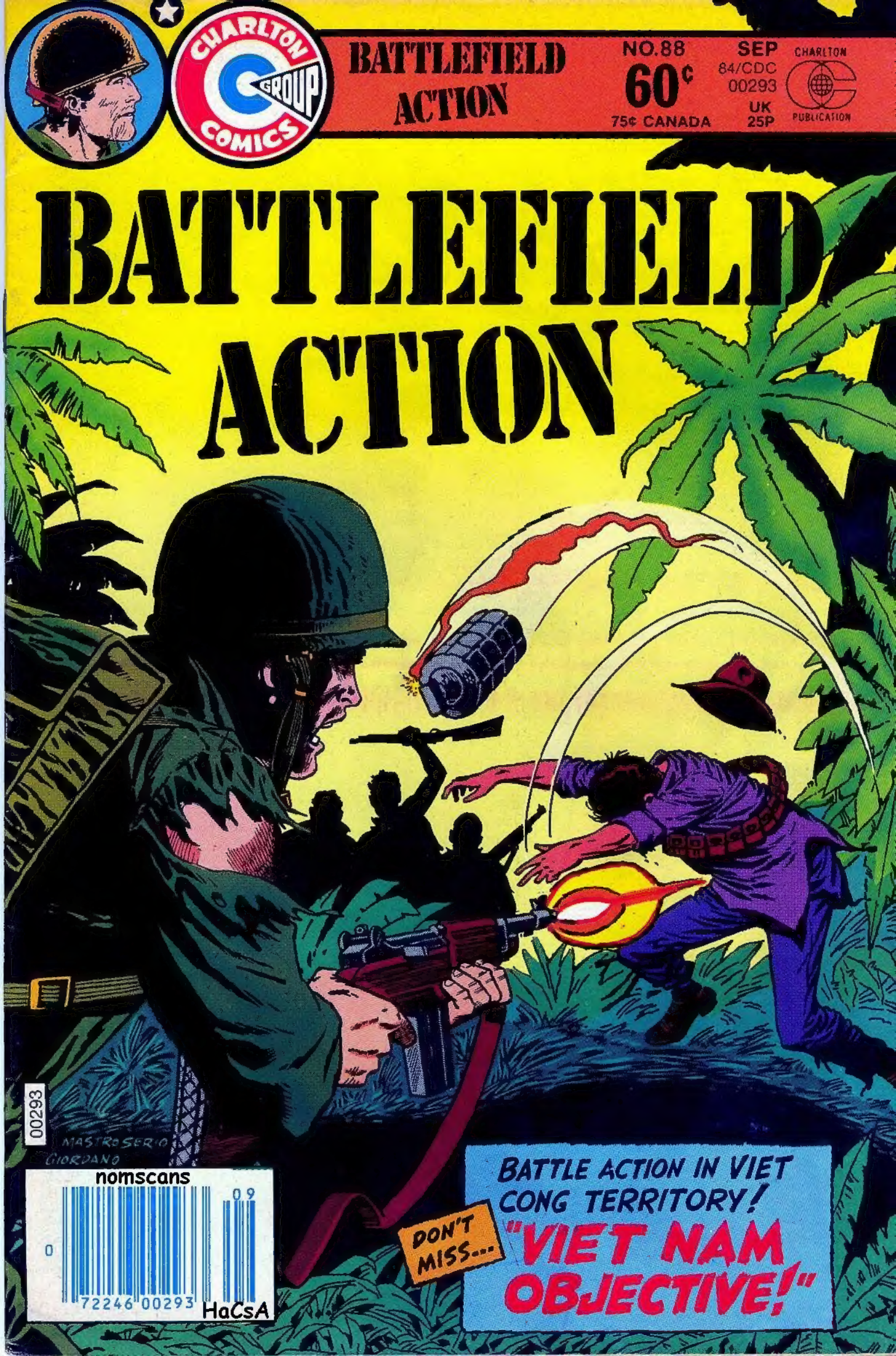
BATTLEFIELD ACTION



BATTLE ACTION IN VIET CONG TERRITORY!

DON'T MISS...

"VIET NAM OBJECTIVE!"

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HaCsA

Village of FEAR

BATTLEFIELD ACTION Vol. 7, No. 88, September, 1984,
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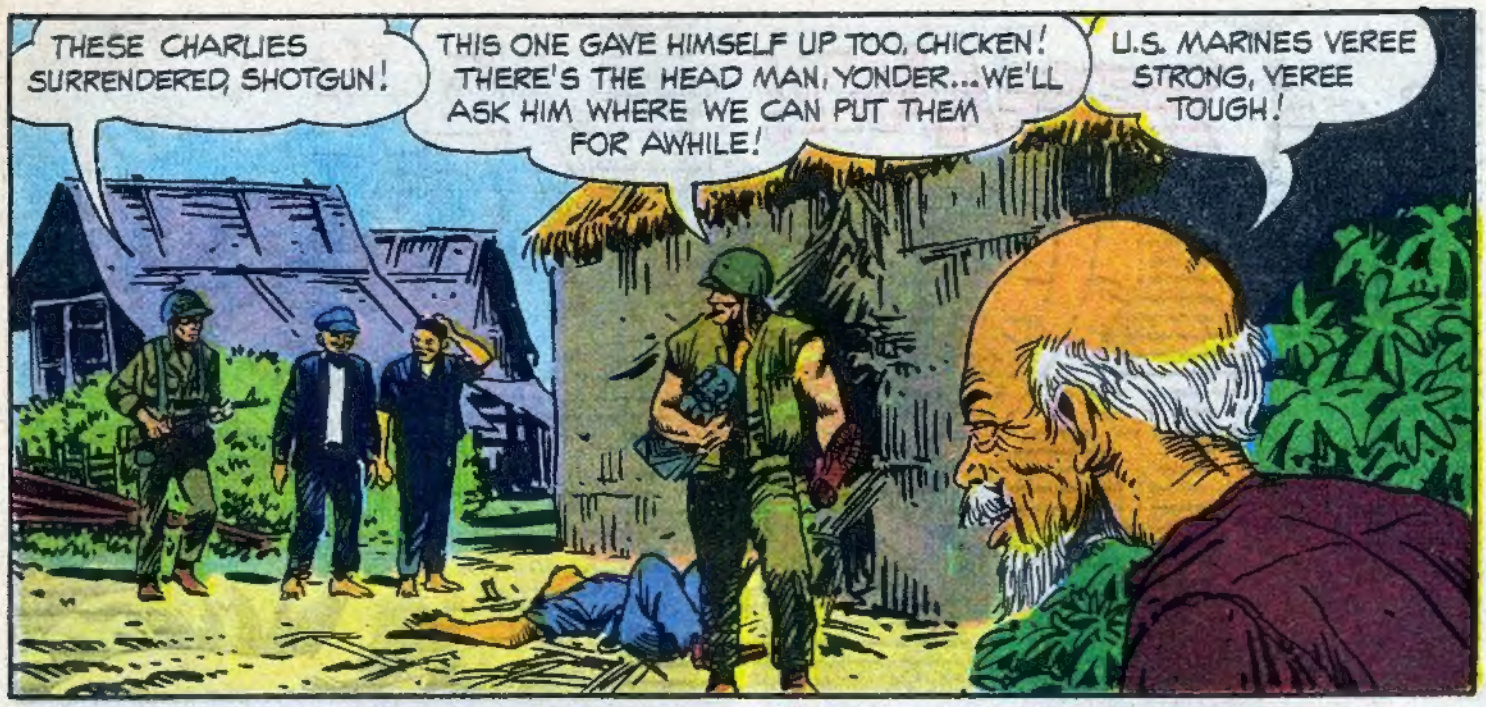
KILL!
YEEEAAH!!
A TRAP! CHICKEN, I'M GONNA MURDER YA....
CLINK
YIPPEE!
SAY SOMETHIN' INTELLIGENT, WILLYA?
THUD
NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN, CHARLIE!
KRAK
I'M GONNA SHOVE THAT POPGUN IN YER EAR!
POW
2


THESE CHARLIES SURRENDERED, SHOTGUN!
THIS ONE GAVE HIMSELF UP TOO, CHICKEN! THERE'S THE HEAD MAN, YONDER... WE'LL ASK HIM WHERE WE CAN PUT THEM FOR AWHILE!
U.S. MARINES VEREE STRONG, VEREE TOUGH!

THE HEADMAN'S DWELLING, LARGER AND OF STURDIER CONSTRUCTION, SEEMS LIKE A SAFE PLACE FOR THE VIET CONG PRISONERS BUT SHOTGUN PLAYS SAFE...

STAY HERE AN' WATCH 'EM, CHICKEN! I'LL LOOK AROUND THE VILLAGE, SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OTHERS!
KI LINGH ESCORT VEREE TOUGH, VEREE SMART U.S. MARINE! COME!

THERE ARE NO MORE VIET CONG HERE NOW, SARJAHNT! I HAVE JUST BEEN IN THIS DWELLING A MOMENT AGO AND IT IS EMPTY!
YUH'RE A REAL BIG HELP, KI LINGH! HOW 'BOUT THAT ONE, YONDER?

PLEASE, SARJAHNT! NOT LOOK THERE! WOMANS LIVE THERE, VEREE SHY!
I HEARD VOICES...
YOU SEE, SARJAHNT? IS EMPTEE! NOW, WE GO OUTSIDE, NO?
I GUESS I'M IMAGININ' THINGS, KI LINGH!
I'LL GO BACK AN' TELL CHICKEN WE'LL RADIO BASE AND HAVE A SECURITY PATROL COME AN' TAKE THE PRISONERS!
I RADIOED BASE, CHICKEN, AN....CHICKEN?
WHERE ARE THEY? SPEAK UP, CHIEF, OR....
I DO NOT KNOW, SARJAHNT!
YOU KNOW, BUDDY! THIS IS YOUR VILLAGE! YOU FIND CHICKEN PRONTO OR I'LL TAKE THE PLACE APART!
Y-YES, SARJAHNT! I WILL HELP YOU!
4

BUT WITH KI LINGH TERRIFIED AND LEADING THE WAY, SHOTGUN HARKER CAN'T FIND CHICKEN SMITH OR THE V.C. PRISONERS...
WE'RE BEIN' WATCHED, ELDER! I CAN FEEL EYES ON MY BACK!
NO BAD MEN HERE NOW, SARJAHNT!
YA SAID THAT HUT'S EMPTY! I'M GONNA SEARCH IT!
DIE, JOE!
BAM
BAM
BLAM
GOT 'IM, I THINK!
5

AAAAHHH!
SACRE BLEU! THAT IS MOST TERRIBLE WEAPON!
YUH BETTER LEVEL WITH ME, KI LINGH! WHERE'S YOUR FAMILY? HAS CHARLIE TAKEN HOSTAGES HERE?
PLEASE, SARJAHNT! GO FROM HERE, I WILL TRY TO MAKE THEM RELEASE YOUR FRIEND WHO THEY HAVE CAPTURED!
YUH MEAN... CHICKEN IS A HOSTAGE?
THIS IS TRUE, SARJAHNT! IF YOU REMAIN HERE, MY FAMILY WILL BE EXECUTED....
...AND YOUR FRIEND CHICKEN WILL ALSO DIE! BE ASSURED, MON AMI, THEY ARE WATCHING AND WAITING EVEN NOW!
I GUESS I GOT NO CHOICE! I'LL LEAVE THE VILLAGE, KI LINGH!
SHOTGUN HARKER'S INSTINCT IS TO STAY AND HUNT THEM DOWN... BLAST THE V.C.'S AS HE FINDS THEM! BUT HE CLIMBS INTO THE JEEP AND...
HE IS GONE BUT HE WILL RETURN WITH OTHERS! WE MUST MINE THE VILLAGE STREET AND PREPARE OUR AMBUSH!
AFTER WE EXECUTE ALL THE HOSTAGES!

THIS IS FAR ENOUGH!
NOW TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT DINH NAT...WITHOUT CHARLIE KNOWIN' I'M AROUND!
MEANWHILE, CHICKEN SMITH IS STILL IN THE ELDER'S HOUSE...OR MORE CORRECTLY, HE'S UNDERNEATH IT!
SOON YOU DIE, COWARD!
YA SKINNY RUNT, IF I WASN'T TIED UP...
YOU ARE FOOLISH, MY FRIEND...HE WILL KILL YOU!
OFFF
WAP
GOTCHA!
7

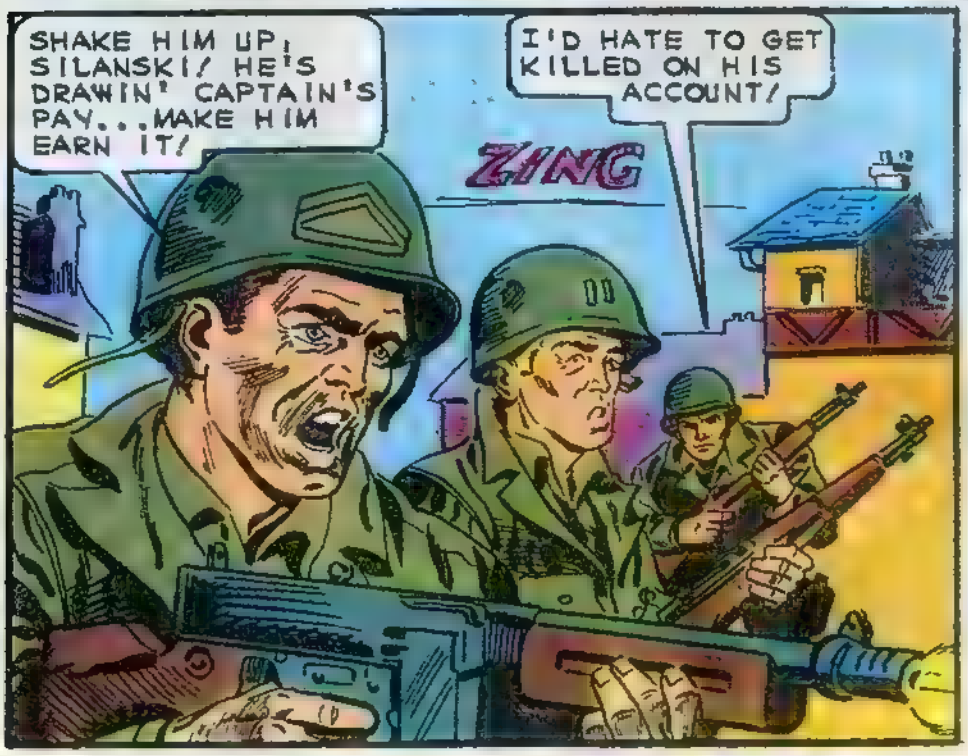
GRAB 'IM!
IF YOU MOVE, CARRION, I WILL KILL YOU!
THAT'S IT, SONNY!
A MINUTE LATER, CHARLIE'S HANGING FROM THE BEAM...
IF I HAD ANY SENSE, I'D STAY DOWN HERE UNTIL SHOTGUN RADIOED FOR HELP... I BEEN HANGING AROUND THAT HERO TYPE TOO LONG!
WOWW! THEY'D KILL A LOT OF MARINES WITH THAT THING!
WHAT'LL I DO?
H-HOLD IT, CHARLIE! GET AWAY FROM THAT G-GUN!
8

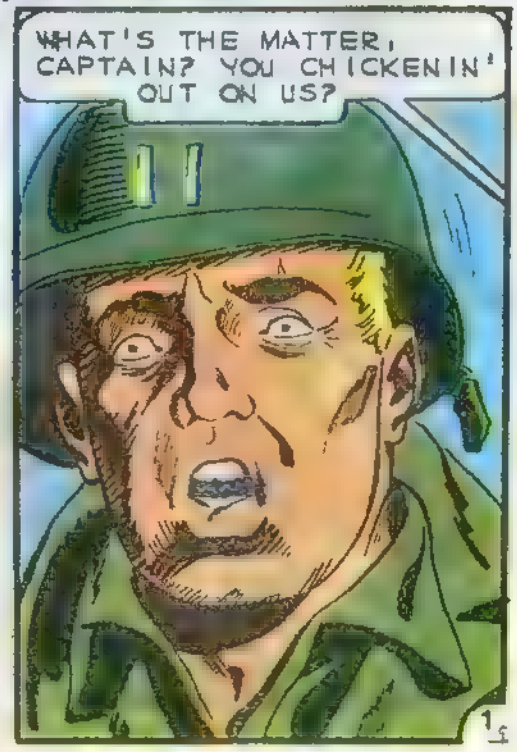
IF Y-YOU M-MOVE, I....WHOOOPPSS! DROPPED IT!
YEEEE!!!!!
MEANWHILE...
CHARLIE....COMIN' AT ME...GOT 'IM!
'NOTHER ONE OVER THERE!
BLAM
BRUP BRUP
THEY'LL ZAP ME IF I STAY HERE... WHERE TA GO, THOUGH?
POW
BRUP BRUP
BLAM
WHEN IN DOUBT... CHARGE!
BRUP
A DOZEN VIET CONGS ARE IN THIS ROOM...AND WHEN SHOTGUN HARKER JOINS THE GROUP THEY GET A LITTLE CRAMPED FOR SPACE!
I GOT YEZ ALL SURROUNDED!

THAT CHICKEN-LIVERED BOOT IS NEVER AROUND WHEN I NEED HIM!
I'M GITTIN' TIRED OF PLAYIN' AROUND....I'M GONNA GIT ROUGH NOW!
WHERE YA BEEN, BOOT, HIDIN' IN THE BOONDOCKS?
HIDIN'? I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, THAT GRENADE ALMOST GOT ME TOO!
I LOCATED THE VIET CONG'S WEAPONS CACHE, SHOTGUN! ME AN' KI LINGH POURED OIL INTO IT AND LIT IT OFF A MINUTE AGO!
THESE ARE ALL THE VIET CONG MURDERERS, SARJAHNT! YOU HAVE RELIEVED MY PEOPLE OF A TERRIBLE THREAT!
YEAH, YEAH...SECURITY FORCES ARE SENDING A TRUCK TO PICK UP THESE GUYS!
NOW, KI LINGH...LET'S GET SERIOUS! HOW ABOUT SOME SOUVENIRS?
BARROOM
End

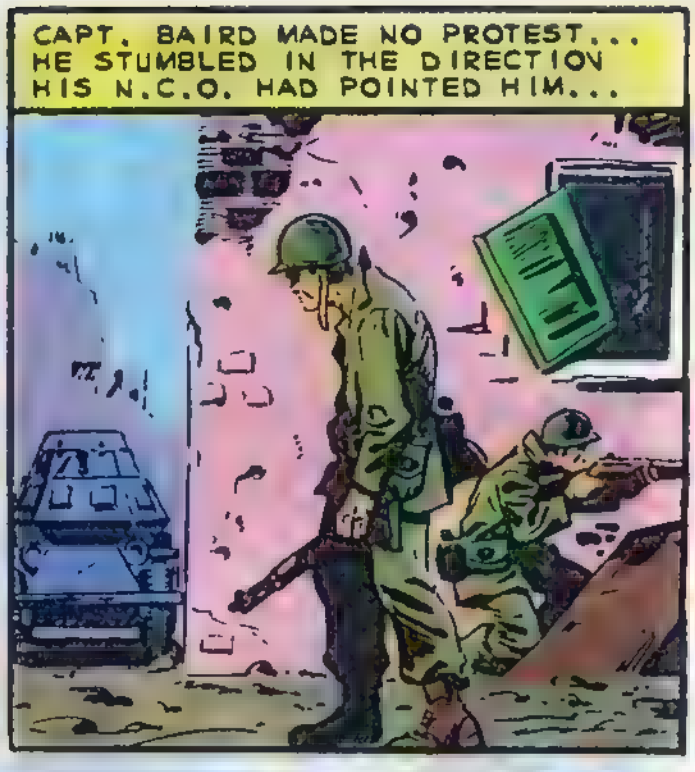
AWAITING COURT MARTIAL

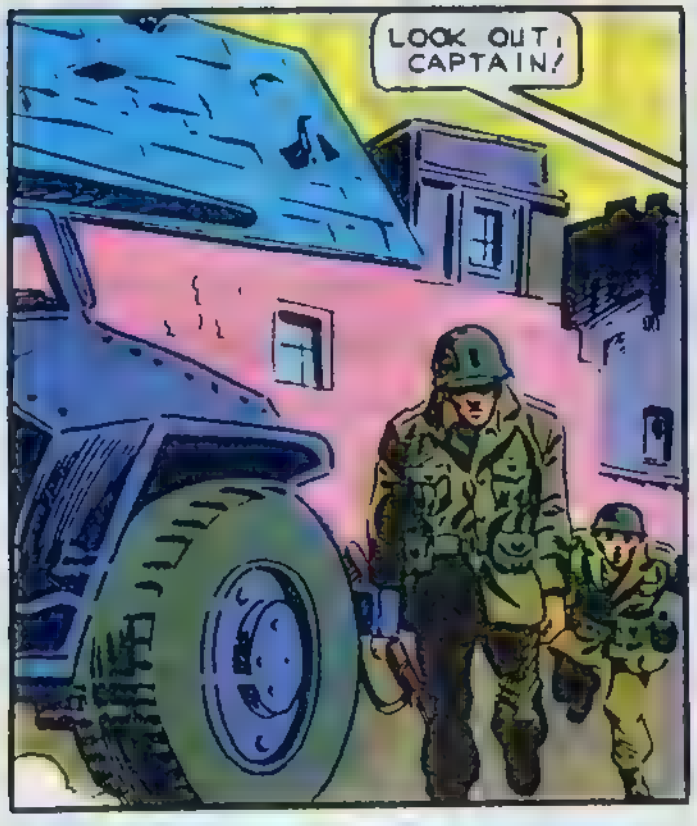
THE NAZIS ATTACKED WITHOUT WARNING ON THE MORNING OF 16 DEC., 1944...CAPT. BAIRD, COMMANDING A RIFLE COMPANY WHICH HAD BEDDED DOWN IN THE BELGIAN VILLAGE FOR THE NIGHT, RAN FOR THE STREET...AND, THEN, WITH HIS MEN AWAITING ORDERS, HE APPARENTLY BECAME FROZEN WITH FEAR!
WHAT YUH WANT US TO DO, CAPT'N? COME ON SAY SOMETHIN', WE'LL GET CHOPPED UP IF WE JUST SET HERE AND WAIT TO BE KILLED!
POW
PLING
MOMES AIASCIA
POW
B-142

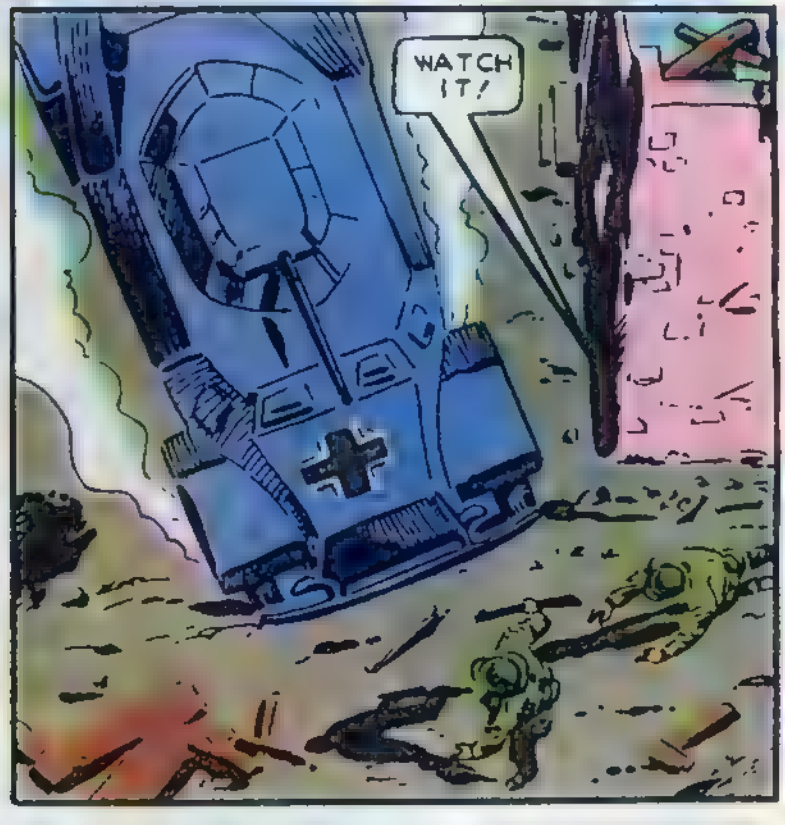


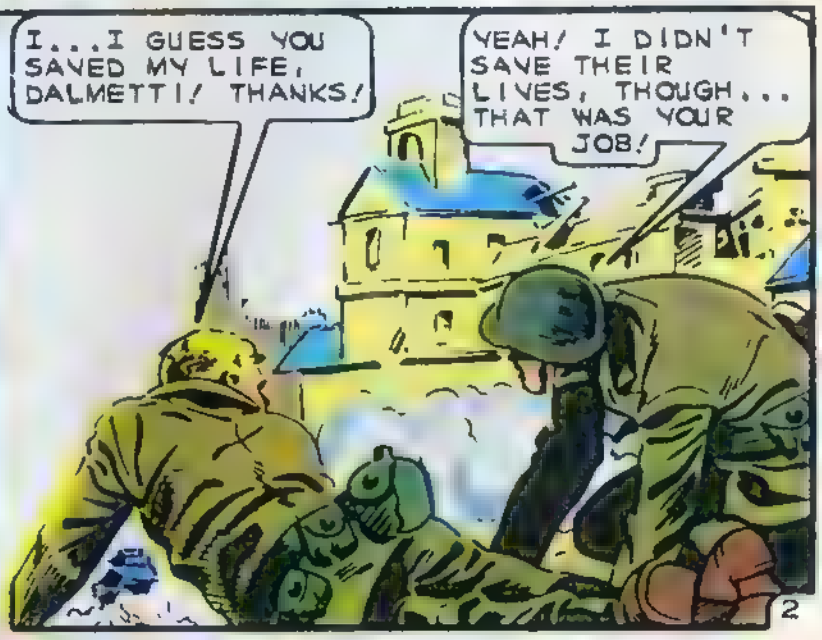


GO ON, CAPTAIN...FIND A MEDIC, ASK HIM TUH GIVE YOU SOMETHIN' FOR THAT YELLA STREAK DOWN YOUR BACK!
RATATAT-TAT
TAT

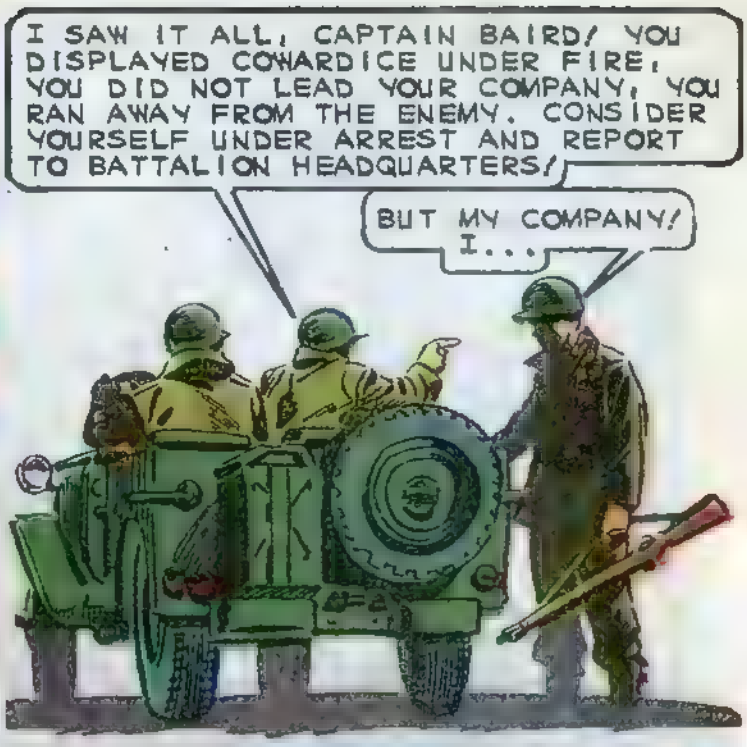

CAPT. BAIRD MADE NO PROTEST... HE STUMBLED IN THE DIRECTION HIS N.C.O. HAD POINTED HIM...

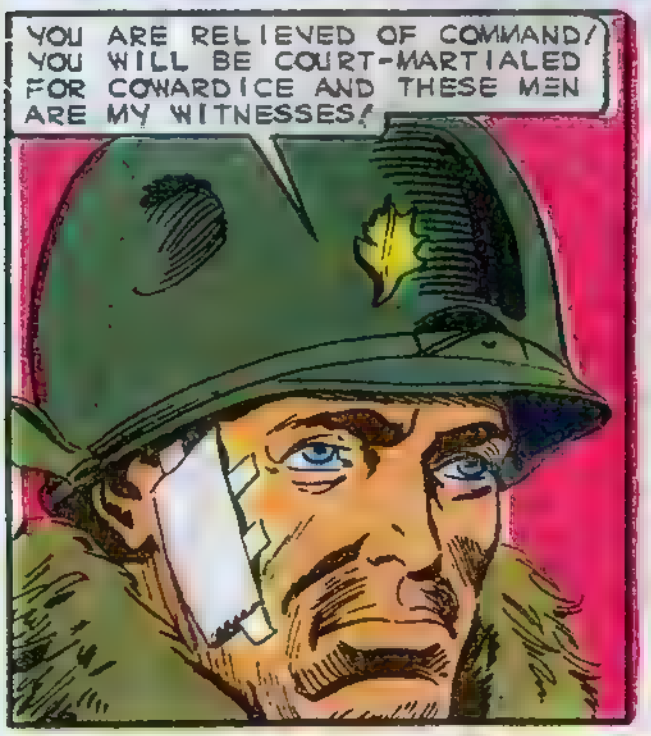

LOOK OUT, CAPTAIN!

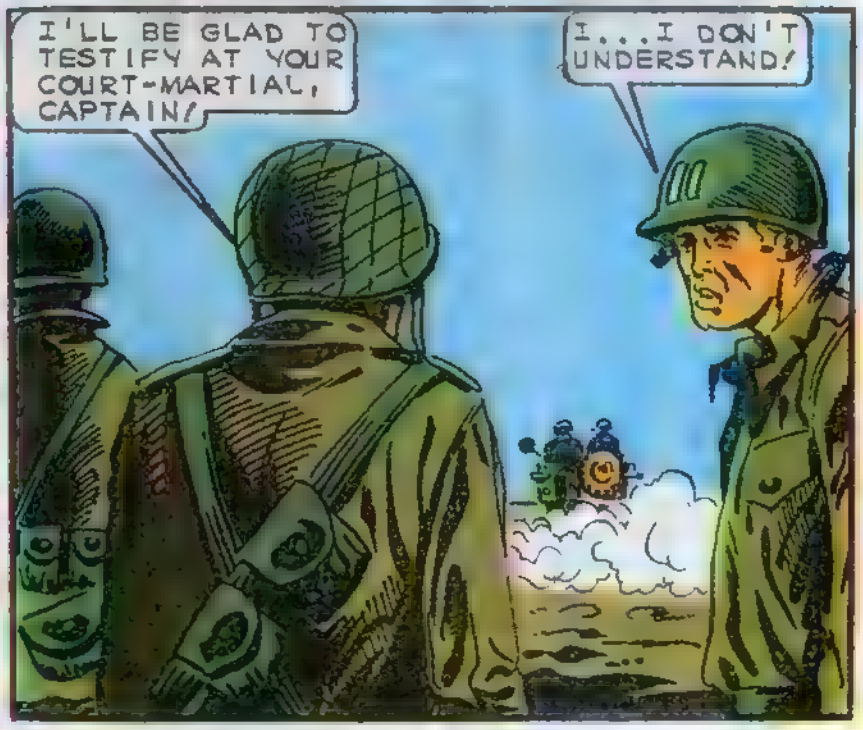

WATCH IT!


I...I GUESS YOU SAVED MY LIFE, DALMETTI! THANKS!
YEAH! I DIDN'T SAVE THEIR LIVES, THOUGH... THAT WAS YOUR JOB!

MAJOR CONNETT, ATTACHED TO BATTALION H.Q., HAD BEEN IN TOWN WHEN THE ATTACK BEGAN AND WAS WOUNDED/ NOW, BEFORE ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL, HE PERFORMED ONE LAST OFFICIAL ACTION...
STOP THE JEEP, SOLDIER/

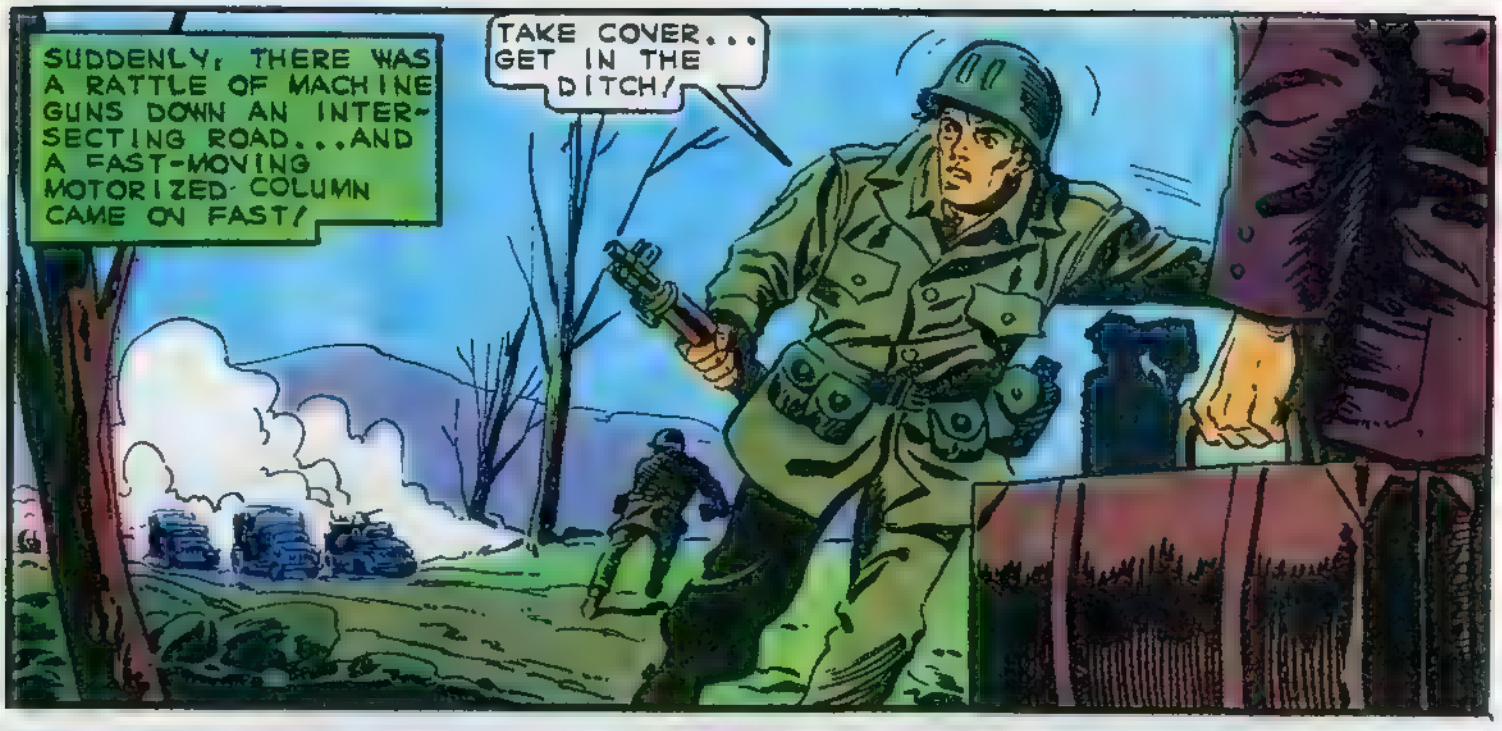

I SAW IT ALL, CAPTAIN BAIRD/ YOU DISPLAYED COWARDICE UNDER FIRE. YOU DID NOT LEAD YOUR COMPANY, YOU RAN AWAY FROM THE ENEMY. CONSIDER YOURSELF UNDER ARREST AND REPORT TO BATTALION HEADQUARTERS/
BUT MY COMPANY/ I...

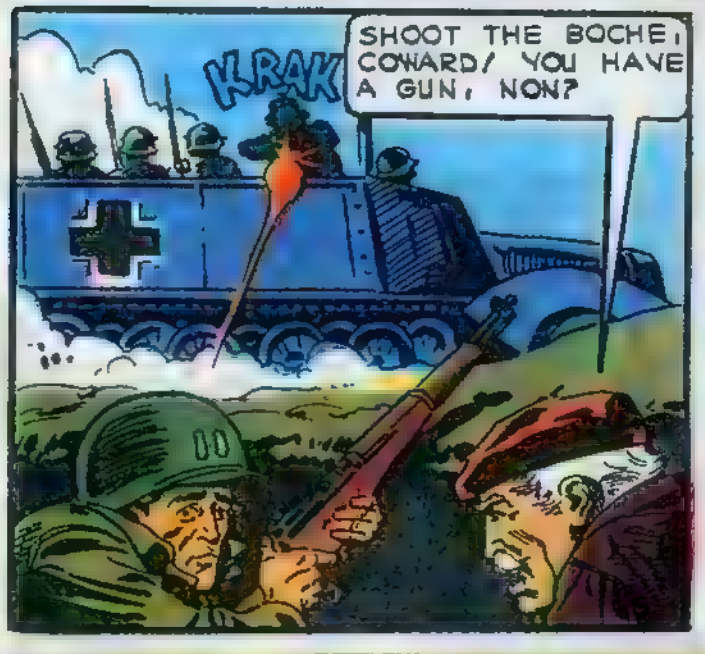

YOU ARE RELIEVED OF COMMAND/ YOU WILL BE COURT-MARTIALED FOR COWARDICE AND THESE MEN ARE MY WITNESSES/

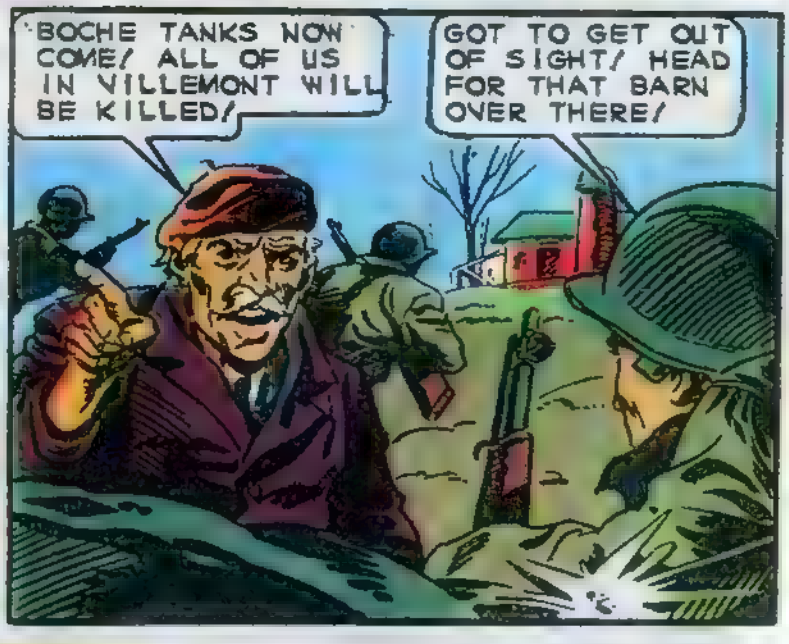

I'LL BE GLAD TO TESTIFY AT YOUR COURT-MARTIAL, CAPTAIN/
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND/

"RELIEVED OF COMMAND/" THE MAJOR HAD SAID/ "UNDER ARREST/"
WHY DID THAT SOLDIER SAVE ME? I WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF DEAD/

THE NAZIS BROKE THROUGH...THEY GOT BEHIND THE LINES...EVERYONE IS TOO CONFUSED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO/

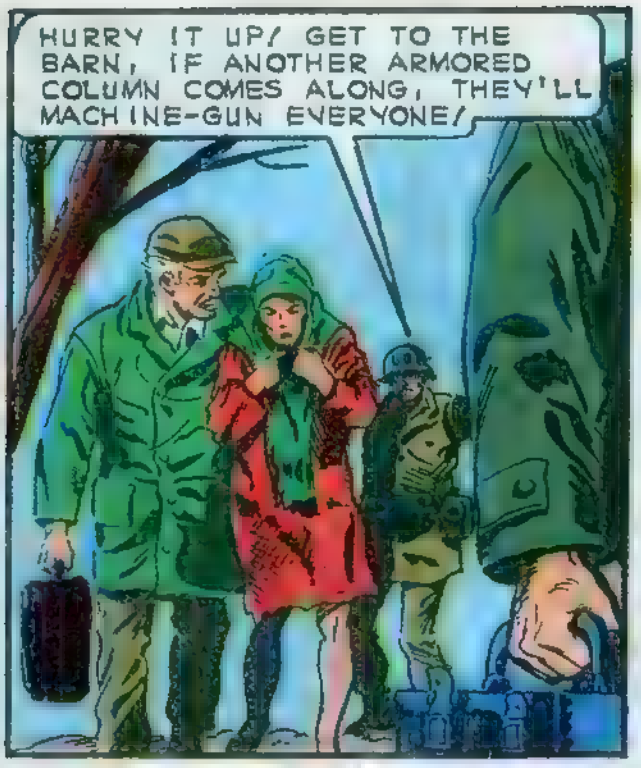

SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A RATTLE OF MACHINE GUNS DOWN AN INTERSECTING ROAD...AND A FAST-MOVING MOTORIZED COLUMN CAME ON FAST!
TAKE COVER... GET IN THE DITCH!

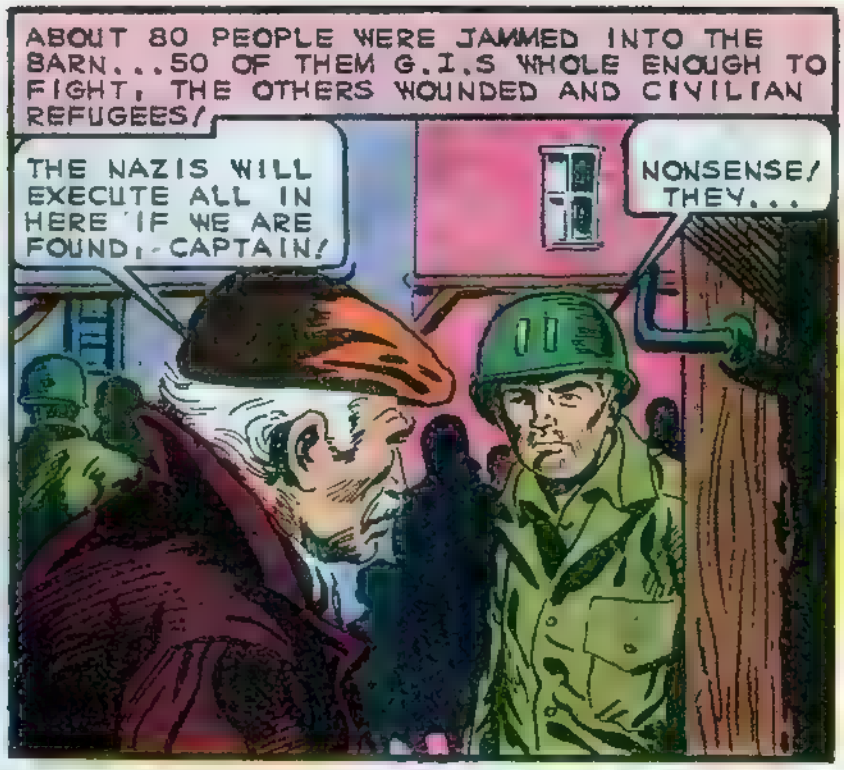

KRAK
SHOOT THE BOCHE, COWARD! YOU HAVE A GUN, NON?

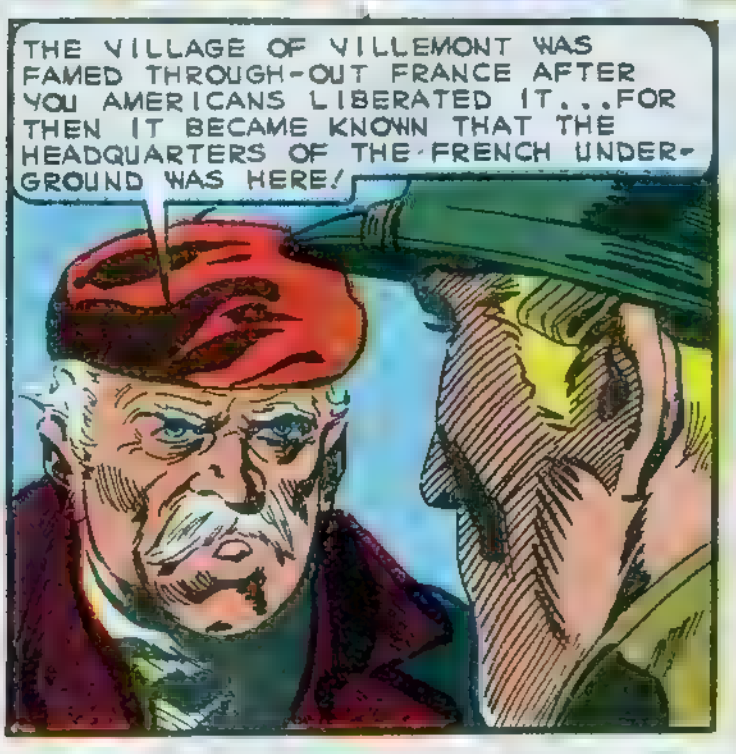

BOCHE TANKS NOW COME! ALL OF US IN VILLEMONT WILL BE KILLED!
GOT TO GET OUT OF SIGHT! HEAD FOR THAT BARN OVER THERE!

LEADERSHIP WAS NEEDED...AND CAPTAIN BAIRD FORGOT HIS OWN MISERIES FOR A MOMENT AND HIS VOICE CRACKLED WITH AUTHORITY...
YOU MEN...HELP THE WOUNDED REACH THAT BARN! YOU'LL BE UNDER MY COMMAND SO LONG AS YOU'RE DETACHED FROM YOUR COMPANY!
YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN WHO CHICKENED OUT, AIN'T YA? WE DON'T HAVE TO TAKE YOUR ORDERS!

I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DISOBEY MY ORDERS, SOLDIER! GET MOVING!
OKAY, OKAY, TAKE IT EASY!

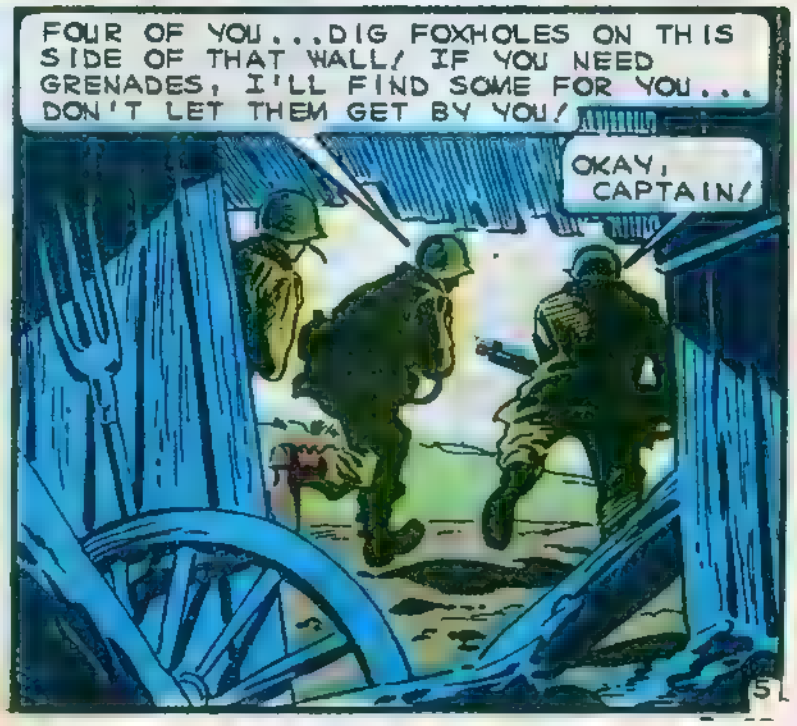

HURRY IT UP/ GET TO THE BARN, IF ANOTHER ARMORED COLUMN COMES ALONG, THEY'LL MACHINE-GUN EVERYONE/


ABOUT 80 PEOPLE WERE JAMMED INTO THE BARN...50 OF THEM G.I.S WHOLE ENOUGH TO FIGHT, THE OTHERS WOUNDED AND CIVILIAN REFUGEES/
THE NAZIS WILL EXECUTE ALL IN HERE IF WE ARE FOUND, CAPTAIN/
NONSENSE/ THEY...


THE VILLAGE OF VILLEMONT WAS FAMED THROUGH-OUT FRANCE AFTER YOU AMERICANS LIBERATED IT...FOR THEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FRENCH UNDER-GROUND WAS HERE/

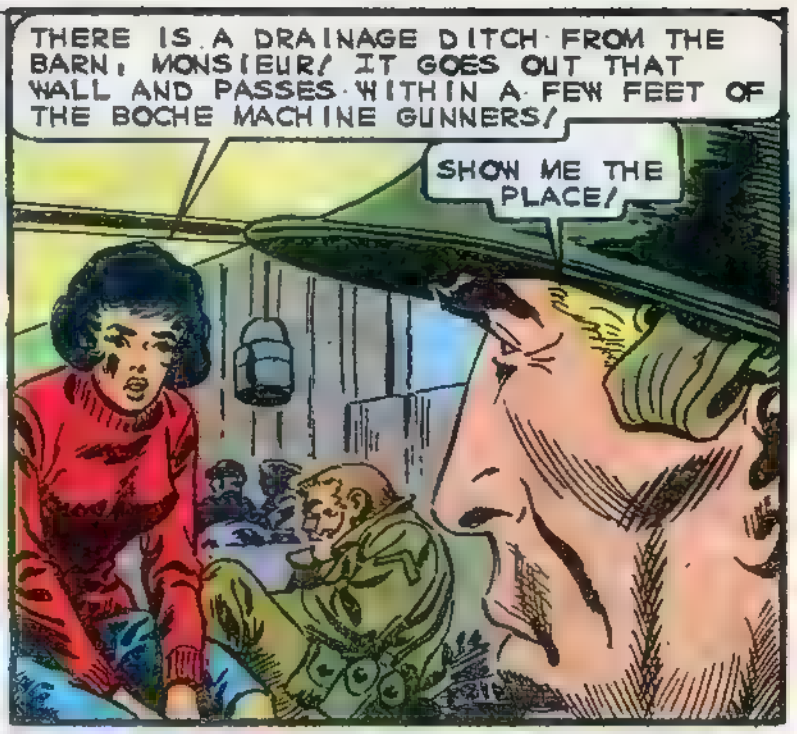
THE LITTLE VILLAGE IS EMPTY NOW... THE NAZIS WILL DESTROY OUR HOMES... BUT THEY WILL SEARCH FOR US AND IF THEY FIND US HERE, ALL OF US MUST DIE/

WE'VE GOT TO DEFEND THIS POSITION. YOU MEN GET OUTSIDE... WE'RE GOING TO SPREAD OUT AND GET READY FOR ATTACK/

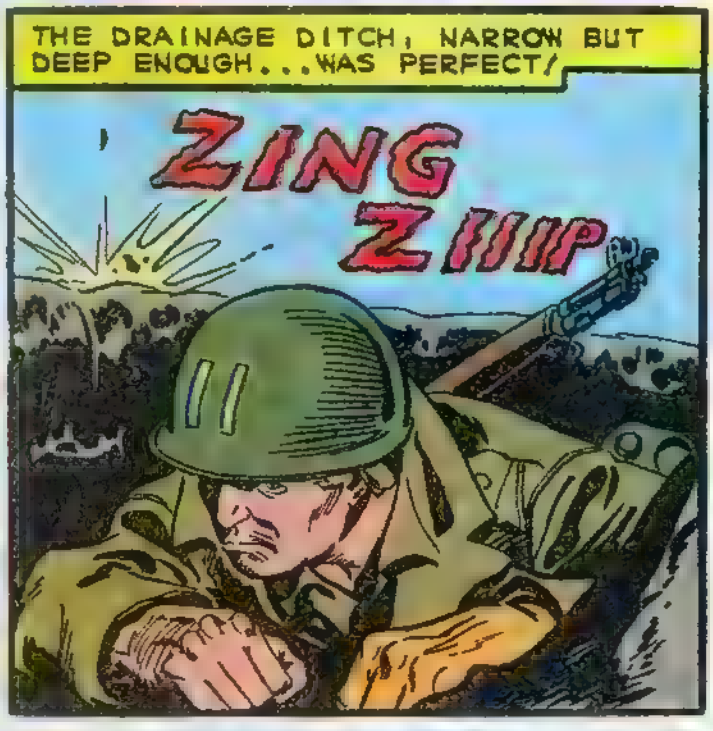

FOUR OF YOU...DIG FOXHOLES ON THIS SIDE OF THAT WALL/ IF YOU NEED GRENADES, I'LL FIND SOME FOR YOU... DON'T LET THEM GET BY YOU/
OKAY, CAPTAIN/

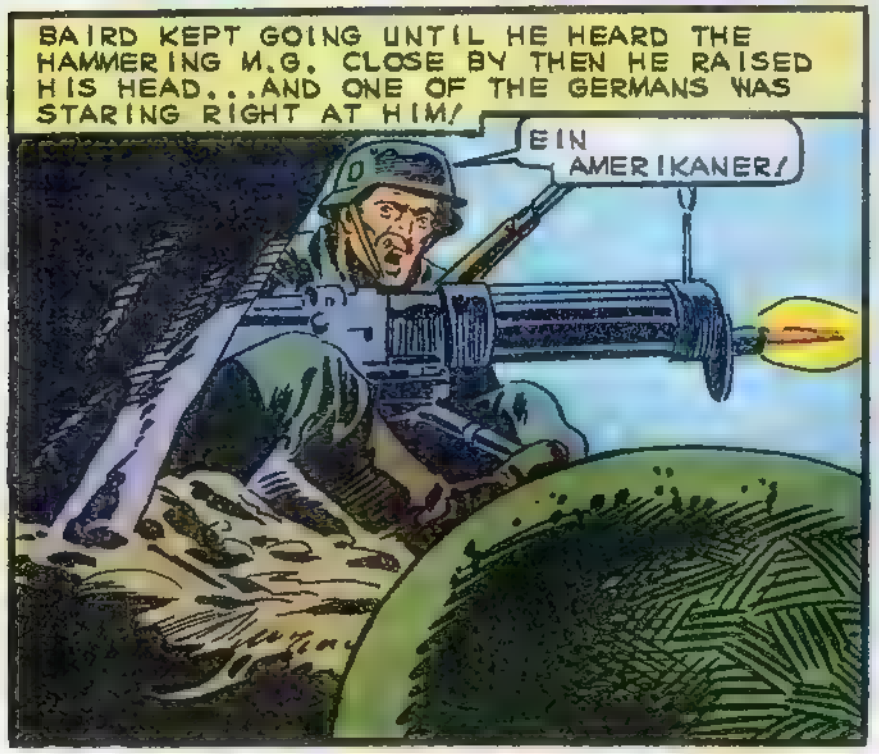
CROSSING THE FIELDS, HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE BARN, THE NAZIS HAD ORDERS TO KILL/
RATAT-TATAT
THERE GOES CAPTAIN BAIRD... HE DON'T ACT LIKE HE EVER TURNED CHICKEN/
CAPT. BAIRD'S M1 STUTTERED ONCE OR TWICE...AND THE SURVIVING WEHRMACHT TROOPS HEADED FOR COVER/
RATATATAT
THEY'VE GOT A HEAVY MACHINE GUN OVER BY THE WALL/ IT'LL TEAR THROUGH THESE WALLS LIKE PAPER/
BUDDA BUDDA
6

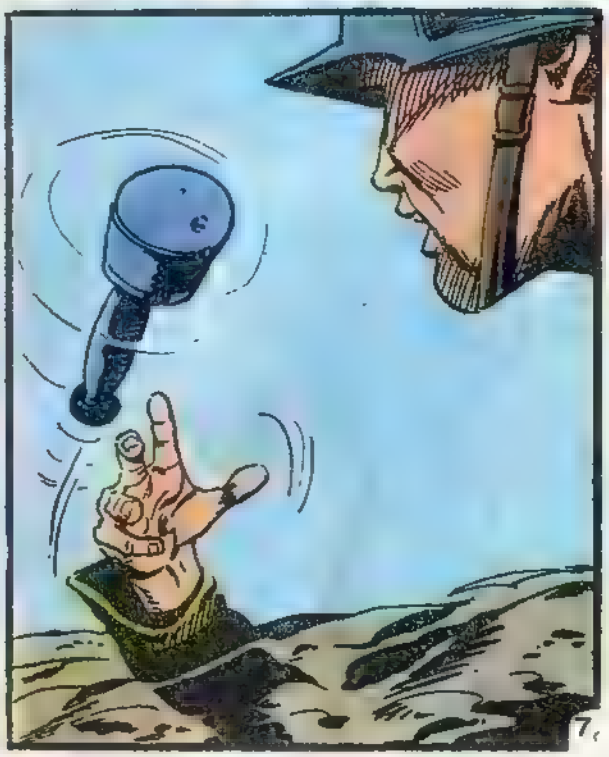
YOU SEE, MONSIEUR? THEY HAVE ORDERS ...EXECUTE EVERY-ONE IN THE VILLEMONT AREA/
GOT TO GET THAT GUN, THAT'S FOR SURE/
ZIIIP
PEEE OOHO
ZING
ZING
ZING

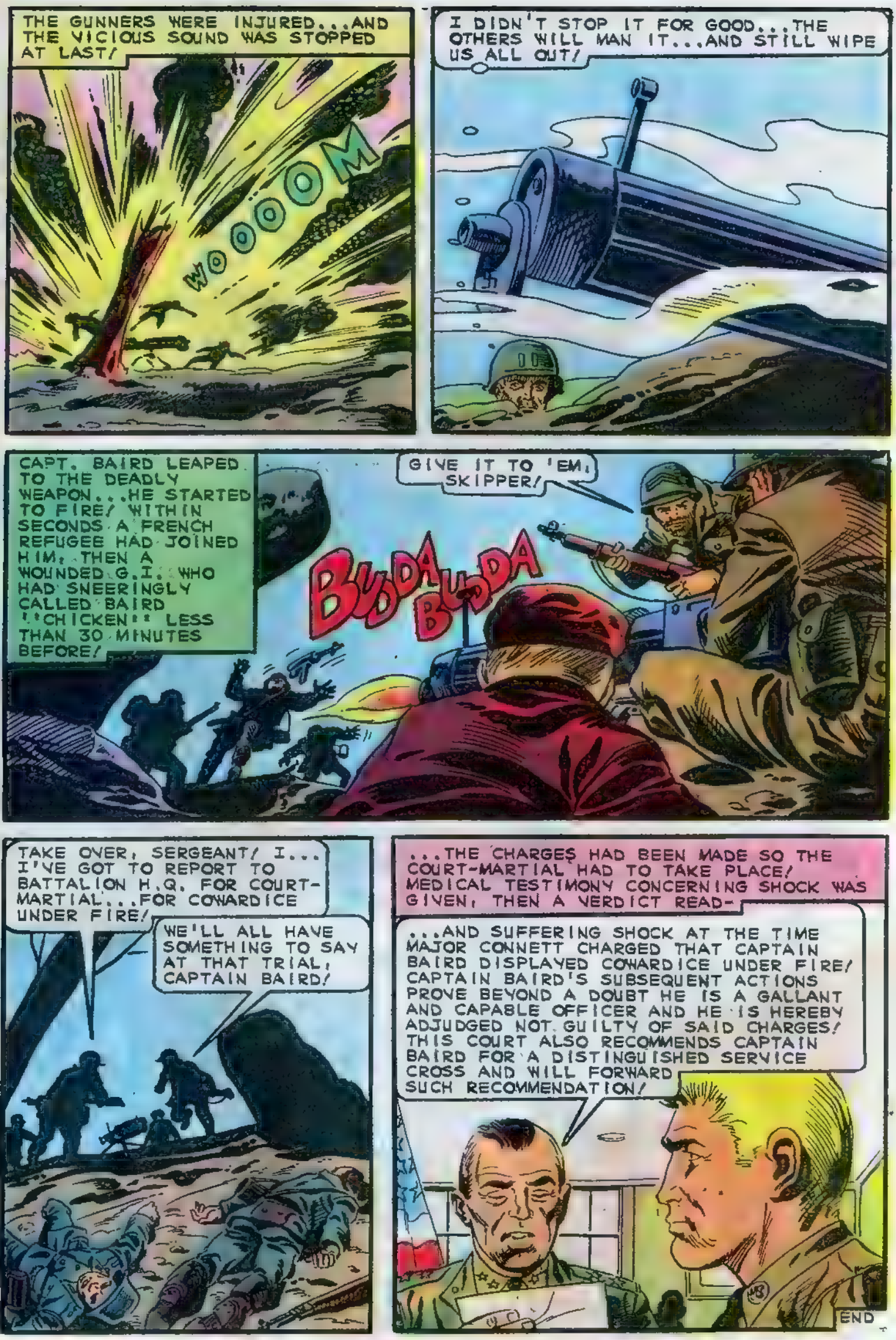

THERE IS A DRAINAGE DITCH FROM THE BARN, MONSIEUR/ IT GOES OUT THAT WALL AND PASSES WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE BOCHE MACHINE GUNNERS/
SHOW ME THE PLACE/

CAPTAIN -- THIS GERMAN GRENADE -- GIVE IT BACK TO THEM WITH OUR LOVE/
GOOD IDEA, SONNY/


THE DRAINAGE DITCH, NARROW BUT DEEP ENOUGH...WAS PERFECT/
ZING
ZIIIP


BAIRD KEPT GOING UNTIL HE HEARD THE HAMMERING M.G. CLOSE BY THEN HE RAISED HIS HEAD...AND ONE OF THE GERMANS WAS STARING RIGHT AT HIM/
EIN AMERIKANER/



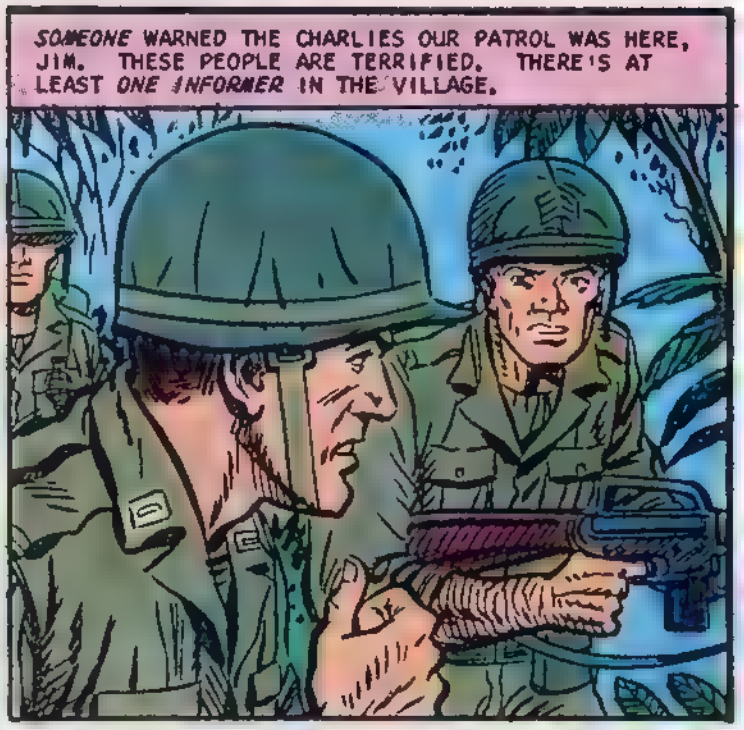

THE GUNNERS WERE INJURED...AND THE VICIOUS SOUND WAS STOPPED AT LAST!
WOOOOM
I DIDN'T STOP IT FOR GOOD...THE OTHERS WILL MAN IT...AND STILL WIPE US ALL OUT!
CAPT. BAIRD LEAPED TO THE DEADLY WEAPON...HE STARTED TO FIRE! WITHIN SECONDS A FRENCH REFUGEE HAD JOINED HIM; THEN A WOUNDED G.I. WHO HAD SNEERINGLY CALLED BAIRD "CHICKEN" LESS THAN 30 MINUTES BEFORE!
GIVE IT TO 'EM, SKIPPER!
BUDA BUDA
TAKE OVER, SERGEANT! I... I'VE GOT TO REPORT TO BATTALION H.Q. FOR COURT-MARTIAL...FOR COWARDICE UNDER FIRE!
WE'LL ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AT THAT TRIAL, CAPTAIN BAIRD!
...THE CHARGES HAD BEEN MADE SO THE COURT-MARTIAL HAD TO TAKE PLACE! MEDICAL TESTIMONY CONCERNING SHOCK WAS GIVEN; THEN A VERDICT READ-
...AND SUFFERING SHOCK AT THE TIME MAJOR CONNETT CHARGED THAT CAPTAIN BAIRD DISPLAYED COWARDICE UNDER FIRE! CAPTAIN BAIRD'S SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS PROVE BEYOND A DOUBT HE IS A GALLANT AND CAPABLE OFFICER AND HE IS HEREBY ADJUDGED NOT GUILTY OF SAID CHARGES! THIS COURT ALSO RECOMMENDS CAPTAIN BAIRD FOR A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS AND WILL FORWARD SUCH RECOMMENDATION!
END

MANHUNT

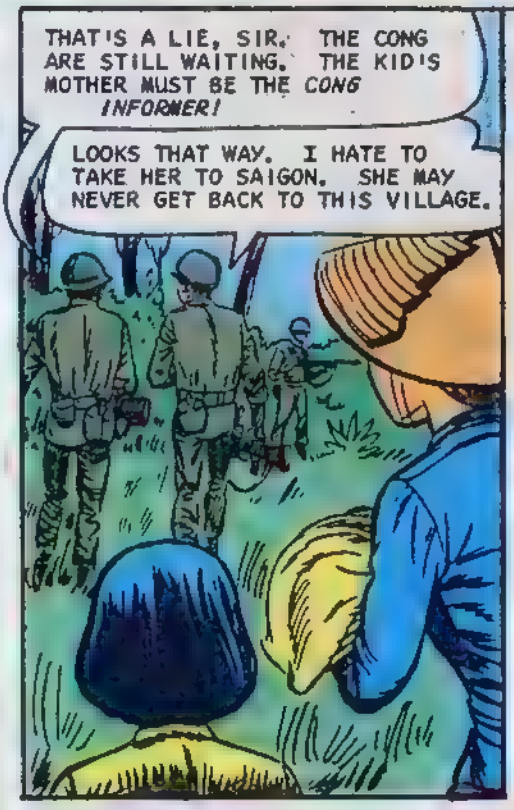
WE'RE INTERROGATING THE WOMEN IN THE VILLAGE, HOPING TO FIND THE VIET CONG HIDE-OUT... WHEN A GRENADE SUDDENLY HITS THE GROUND NEAR THE YOUNG MOTHER CAPT. HALLER IS QUESTIONING! I SEE THE CHARLIE IN THE BRUSH AND I GET OFF A GOOD BURST... WHILE THE SKIPPER DIVES FOR THE GRENADE THAT'LL TAKE AT LEAST FOUR LIVES IN ANOTHER SECOND!

SCRIPT BY: J.GILL. PENCILED BY: C.NICHOLAS. INKED BY: C.HUBBEL. LETTERED BY: A.MACHINE.

YOU ALL RIGHT, HONEY?
WE'D BETTER MOVE ON, SKIPPER. MORE CHARLIES ARE HIDIN' IN THE BUSH.


SOMEONE WARNED THE CHARLIES OUR PATROL WAS HERE, JIM. THESE PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIED. THERE'S AT LEAST *ONE INFORMER* IN THE VILLAGE.

THE BAD CONG ARE ALL GONE AWAY, GENERAL. MAMAN SAYS SHE KNOWS THIS TO BE TRUE.
SHE DOES, DOES SHE?


THAT'S A LIE, SIR. THE CONG ARE STILL WAITING. THE KID'S MOTHER MUST BE THE *CONG INFORMER!*
LOOKS THAT WAY. I HATE TO TAKE HER TO SAIGON. SHE MAY NEVER GET BACK TO THIS VILLAGE.

I'LL GIVE YOU ORDERS TO TAKE THE MEN BACK TO THE CHOPPER AREA. I'LL DO IT WHERE THE WOMAN WILL BE CERTAIN TO OVER-HEAR. THEN, WE'LL DOUBLE BACK HERE AND SEES WHAT HAPPENS.

SERGEANT, WE'LL GO TO THE CHOPPER PAD AND RADIO FOR AN AIRLIFT. GIVE THE MEN THEIR ORDERS.
OKAY, SKIPPER.

THIS PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH CONG! THEY'VE KIDNAPPED THE MEN IN THE VILLAGE. FROM HERE THEY RAID ALONG THE MSR. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS VILLAGE SECURE.
MSR... MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE.

I LED THE COLUMN OUT OF THE VILLAGE BUT I DUCKED INTO THICK COVER THE INSTANT I GOT OUT OF SIGHT. NOW, I WATCH THE VILLAGE, THINKING I'LL SEE THE LITTLE GIRL'S MOTHER SEND WORD TO THE VICTOR CHARLIES. BUT IT'S THE LITTLE GIRL WHO BEHAVES ODDLY...

THE KID! THAT CREEP MUST'VE THROWN THE GRENADE NEAR HER AND THE MOTHER... SHE STILL SPIES FOR THEM!

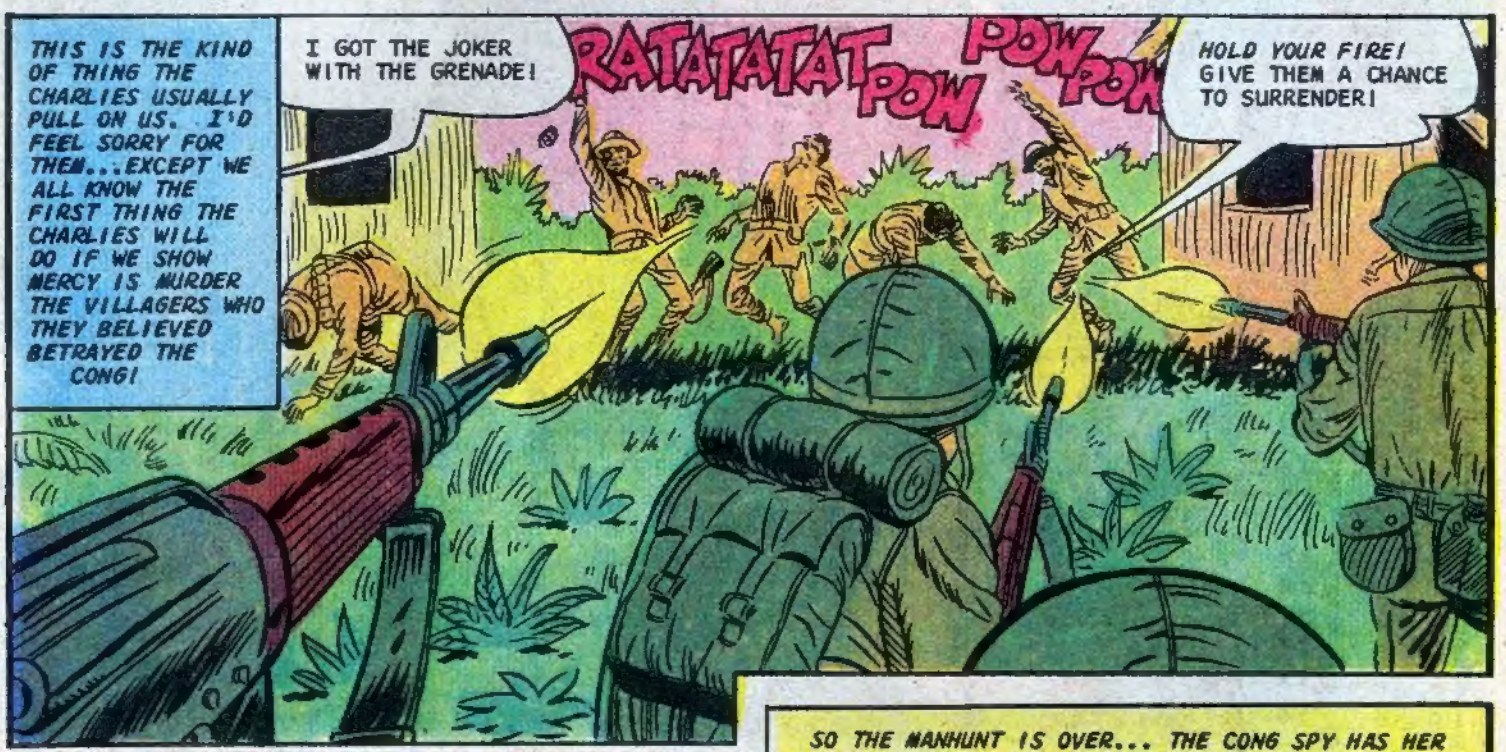
THE VILLAGERS ARE TERRIFIED...

THEY'D JUST AS SOON WIPE OUT THE VILLAGE AS NOT AND THE WOMEN AND THE KIDS KNOW IT!
SHE TAKES THE TRAIL PAST ME CARRYING A SMALL POT OF BOILED RICE. ALL OF A SUDDEN I GOT HOPE THIS MAY TURN OUT RIGHT FOR EVERYBODY...
THE MEN IN THE VILLAGE MUST BE NEAR BY. AND SHE'S TAKING FOOD TO THEM...
THERE ARE TWO CHARLIES IN A CLEARING... GUARDING A HOLE IN THE GROUND WITH A SAPLING LADDER STICKING UP. ONE GLANCE AND I KNOW THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING THE VIET NAMESE VILLAGERS PRISONER...
FOOD FOR MY FATHER AND THE OTHERS.
GO DOWN WITH IT.
AS SOON AS SHE'S SAFE...
I'VE GOT TO GET THEM BOTH WITHOUT ANY SHOTS BEING FIRED!
4

GOT ONE!
THUD
OH OH.
I'M A DEAD PIGEON, I FIGURE...WHEN SUDDENLY A HAND COMES UP FROM THE HOLE IN THE GROUND AND YANKS THE CHARLIE BACK-WARD. HE DROPS HIS ARM AND I LEAP FOR HIM!
SLAM!
YOU'RE THE SPY FOR THE VICTOR CHARLIES!
OUI, SERGEANT. BUT I DO IT TO SAVE MY FATHER AND THE OTHERS. I TOLD MY PAPA YOU FOLLOWED ME AND HE WAS ON THE LADDER WATCHING FOR A CHANCE TO HELP YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE BAD CONG.
IF YOU GET YOUR MEN WE WILL SHOW YOU SECRET TRAILS SO THAT YOU CAN SURPRISE THE CONG MURDERERS!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

LITTLE STAR, GO TO YOUR MAMA AND TELL HER THAT SHE MUST HIDE THE BABY IN THE HOLE BENEATH OUR DWELLING PLACE. ALL THE MAMANS MUST BE READY TO TAKE SHELTER WHEN THE SHOOTING BEGINS. YOU COMPREHEND?
OUI, MON PAPA.

THE VIET VILLAGERS SHOW US FAINT TRAILS... AND WE SURROUND THE ENTIRE FORCE IN THE VILLAGE.
THE WOMAN AND CHILDREN ARE SAFE, SIR! NOW!
NOW!


THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THE CHARLIES USUALLY PULL ON US. I'D FEEL SORRY FOR THEM...EXCEPT WE ALL KNOW THE FIRST THING THE CHARLIES WILL DO IF WE SHOW MERCY IS MURDER THE VILLAGERS WHO THEY BELIEVED BETRAYED THE CONG!
I GOT THE JOKER WITH THE GRENADE!
RATATATATAT POW POW POW
HOLD YOUR FIRE! GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO SURRENDER!

MAMAN, HERE IS PAPA!

SO THE MANHUNT IS OVER... THE CONG SPY HAS HER DADDY BACK... AND WE'RE READY TO GO BACK TO SAIGON...
I ALREADY ASKED THEM TO SEND FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES...AND A BEAUTIFUL NEW DOLL FOR THE KID.
END